

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Staff photo/Linda Laird

Gina Cyeyk of Middletown, right, collects one of the first \$1 tolls paid Wednesday at the new Biddles Corner toll plaza, south of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, on the newest stretch of Del. 1. Ms. Cyeyk described traffic as "average" after collection of tolls began at 3 p.m. at the 14-booth plaza. The Delaware Department of Transportation allowed free use of the 8.5-mile section since the south-bound lanes opened last month and the north-

bound lanes opened last week. Construction on this phase of the project, which cost approximately \$98 million, began in September 1996. Gov. Thomas R. Carper and other state officials participated in ribbon-cutting ceremonies earlier in the day. Construction on the third and final phase of the Del. 1 project, between Smyrna and Odessa, is scheduled to begin next spring.